

NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division

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Change of Command for Mississippi Valley Division

VICKSBURG, Miss., February 12, 2008 – In a formal change of command and retirement ceremony, on February 20, 2008, Brigadier General Robert Crear will transfer command of the Mississippi Valley Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to Brigadier General Michael J. Walsh. The ceremony will be officiated by the Corps' Chief of Engineers, Lieutenant General Robert Van Antwerp, and will take place at 10:00 a.m. in the Vicksburg Convention Center.

Crear, MVD Commander and President of the Mississippi River Commission since June 2004, will be retiring after more than 32 years of service with the United States Army.

Brig. Gen. Walsh comes to Vicksburg from Baghdad, Iraq, where he was Division Engineer of the Corps' Gulf Region Division. He has held a variety of other command and staff positions in the United States and overseas, including Division Engineer of the Corps' Southwestern Division, Dallas, Texas, Chief of Staff at Corps headquarters from May 2003 to June 2004 and the Corps' Executive Director of Civil Works from August 2001 to May 2003. In addition, Gen. Walsh's career includes two Corps district commands: Sacramento District from 1998 to 2001 and San Francisco District from 1994 to 1996.

As MVD Commander, General Walsh will be responsible for the Corps water resources programs in a 370,000-square-mile area that includes portions of 12 states; its boundary extends from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. District offices are headquartered in St. Paul, Rock Island, St. Louis, Memphis, Vicksburg, and New Orleans.

In addition, General Walsh will be president-designee of the Mississippi River Commission, the presidentially appointed agency that oversees the comprehensive Mississippi River and Tributaries flood control and navigation project, as well as the entire Mississippi River and its tributaries.

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